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REMARKSStatus Summary

In this amendment, no claims are added, and no claims are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-10, 48-57, 79-82, and 89-94 will remain pending.

Minor amendments have been made to the specification to improve its form. The amendments do not add any new matter.

Claim Objections

Claim 92 was objected to as being the same as claim 89. Claim 92 has been amended to depend from claim 48. Hence, the rejection of claim 92 should now be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 48-50, 52-54, 56, 57, 79-82, and 89-94 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,659 to Curry et al. (hereinafter, "Curry") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,385,301 to Nolting et al. (hereinafter, "Nolting"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 48 respectively recite a method and an SS7/IP user part message communicator that receive, at an STP configured to perform MTP layer 3 routing and global title translation, a first SS7 user part message sent over an SS7 signaling link. These claims further recite encapsulating the user part message in an IP packet. Claims 1 and 48 have each been amended to recite that encapsulating the user part message in an IP packet includes excluding at least SS7 layer 2 information in the

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first SS7 user part message from the first IP packet. Support for this amendment, is found, for example on page 34, lines 22-23 of the present specification and in Figure 24 where the SS7 layer 2 portion of SS7 message 2400 and possibly other portions are excluded from IP packet 2404.

There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Curry or Nolting of a method or an SS7/IP user part message communicator that encapsulates an SS7 user part message in an IP datagram and excludes SS7 layer 2 information from the IP datagram. In fact, Curry teaches that the entire SS7 message is encapsulated in the IP datagram. For example, Curry states:

The Internet module performs the necessary address determination from the information in the packet, adds the appropriate addressing and instructional overhead to encapsulate the packet in one or more TCP/IP packets, and transmits the packet or packets on the Internet. (Emphasis added.) (See column 21, lines 24-29 of Curry.)

The above-quoted passage indicates that the entire SS7 message packet is encapsulated in one or more TCP/IP packets. There is absolutely no teaching or suggestion of encapsulating an SS7 user part message in an IP packet in a manner that excludes at least SS7 layer 2 information in the SS7 user part message from the IP packet as claimed. Moreover, excluding such information from the IP datagram increases the efficiency over the solution described in Curry, because the solution described in Curry results in unnecessary transfer of data between SS7 nodes. For example, encapsulating the SS7 layer 2 information in the IP packet results in additional data that must be transmitted by the network and additional processing that must be performed by the end nodes. The subject matter of claims 1 and 48 avoids this processing by excluding the SS7 layer 2 information from the IP packet.

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Nolting likewise fails to disclose a method or an SS7 user part message communicator that encapsulates an SS7 user part message in an IP packet in a manner that excludes at least SS7 layer 2 information from the IP packet. Nolting is directed to data preparation for traffic usage measurement. The method disclosed in Nolting relates to processing AMA records and CDRs and has nothing to do with encapsulating SS7 user part messages received from an SS7 node and forwarding such messages to another node in IP datagrams. Moreover, Nolting fails to teach or even remotely suggest encapsulating an SS7 user part message in an IP packet in a manner that excludes SS7 layer 1 and 2 information as claimed. Accordingly, the combination of Curry and Nolting fail to render obvious independent claim 1, independent claim 48, or their dependent claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of these claims as unpatentable over Curry in view of Nolting should be withdrawn.

Claims 4 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Curry in view of Nolting as applied to claims 1 and 48 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,173,897 to Schrodi et al. (hereinafter, Schrodi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above with regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 48, Curry and Nolting fail to disclose a method or an SS7/IP user part message communicator that encapsulates an SS7 user part message in an IP datagram and excludes at least SS7 layer 2 information in the message from the IP datagram as claimed. Schrodi likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. Schrodi is directed to a method for restoring ATM cell sequences. Schrodi does not disclose any methods or packet formats for encapsulating SS7 messages and IP datagrams as claimed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 4 and 51 should now be withdrawn.

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Claims 8 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Curry in view of Nolting as applied to claims 1 and 48 and further in view of Figures 1-7 of the present specification. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above with regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 48, Curry and Nolting fail to teach or suggest a method or an SS7/IP user part message communicator that encapsulates SS7 user part messages in IP datagrams in a manner that excludes at least SS7 layer 2 information from the IP datagrams as claimed. Figures 1-7 of the present specification likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. Figures 1-7 of the present specification illustrate various types of SS7 links and do not disclose any packet formats for encapsulating SS7 user part messages and IP datagrams. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 8 and 55 should now be withdrawn.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

In the Official Action, claims 83-88 are allowed. No changes have been made to these claims. Hence, these claims should remain allowed.

#### CONCLUSION

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

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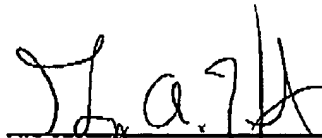
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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